295 is 70 workers, who are also share-holders, receiving 20 per cent. of
474 the annual income in addition to regular wages for work performed.

Before the war the "Red Shoemaker" artel was situated in a different part of the city. The production process was then entirely mechanized, and the membership consisted of 300 workers. The plant was demolished by the Germans during the war; and the present artel was organized in 1945 when five pre-war members returned to Minsk, following the liberation. At present there is practically no machinery in the artel, and shoes are being turned out by hand.

Medical Supplies: General Health

727 In relation to the vast destruction of Byelorussian medical facilities during the war, the UNRRA medical programme of just over one million dollars is a drop in a bucket. According to official Soviet estimates, the Germans in Byelorussia "ruined and plundered 1,136 hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries," which represented 75 per cent. of all hospitals and almost 100 per cent. of the medical supplies and equipment of the Republic. The damage has been calculated at 600 million roubles (about 120 million dollars).

164 Byelorussian officials today say that the general health of the population is below pre-war standards; but there are no alarming epidemics. Infant mortality is higher than in 1940; and tuberculosis, which increased markedly during the war, is still a serious problem, especially among returned war prisoners, partisans, and former "slave labourers". Typhus, which flared up during the German occupation, still occurs sporadically; and malaria, which spread rapidly during the war when no treatment was available, is still widely prevalent, but is being gradually reduced by the restoration of swamp drainage and mosquito control projects.

146 The most general problem is perhaps malnutrition; and because of the food shortages, scurvy, rickets, and anaemia are prevalent. Children are small for their age; and the adult population, as might be expected in the absence of adequate food, clothing, and shelter, is not in optimum health.

UNRRA Shipments

648 Up to January 31, 1947, nearly 70 per cent. of the UNRRA medical
742 programme for Byelorussia had been fulfilled; 163 gross long tons of drugs and equipment had been shipped. The largest single item of the medical programme is a penicillin plant, parts of which began to arrive in the U.S.S.R. in December 1946. In connection with the plant, the Byelorussian Government has designated a penicillin trainee to study penicillin production in Canada. A specialist hired by UNRRA is to aid in assembling the plant and in training other Byelorussian technicians in the production of the drug. The Byelorussian Government has expressed interest in using the same plant for the production of streptomycin.

648 Apart from the penicillin plant, other big items in the UNRRA
742 medical programme include electrocardiographs, X-ray machines and film, and artificial limb manufacturing equipment. Drug requirements have involved the procurement of quinine and, as a substitute, atabrine. By the end of January 1947, slightly less than one metric ton of atabrine had been shipped.

743 Not the least of UNRRA's contribution to Byelorussian health has
648 been the soap supplies furnished. In 1946 the only soap available in the hospitals and sanitoria (and this means generally the only soap available anywhere), came from UNRRA sources. This was also true of a large part of the diet of patients, which came from UNRRA food supplies; and of blankets and bedding, which were distributed to hospitals and children's homes.

Still among the urgent requirements in Byelorussian hospitals are beds and bedding, laboratory equipment - including more X-ray machines, microscopes, stains and medea, drugs, and lamps - furniture, kitchen equipment, food, and soap.

Agricultural Rehabilitation Supplies

648 UNRRA agricultural rehabilitation supplies began to arrive in the
241 B.S.S.R. in February 1946 and consisted almost entirely of seeds. At the end of July the Byelorussian Government acknowledged receipt of 5,300 tons of vegetable and other seeds, which were estimated to be sufficient for planting from half a million to 600,000 hectares; and since favourable weather permitted late sowing, less than a thousand tons had to be held over for use in 1947. On all the farms visited by the UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, the vegetable, clover, vetch, timothy and other grass crops had been started from UNRRA seed.

Besides seeds - an important contribution toward increased food supplies - UNRRA has shipped fishing equipment, food processing equipment, and farm machinery - chiefly tractors. Deliveries of the latter, however, were heartbreakingly slow; and it was only in December 1946 that the first 221 UNRRA tractors arrived. The difficulty of procuring tractors has been one of the greatest obstacles to farm recovery in Byelorussia. The Mission estimated that had UNRRA tractors been available before August 1946, grain cultivation and production would have increased by 500 hectares and 500 tons for each tractor delivered.

Altogether, UNRRA plans to furnish over 800 tractors to the B.S.S.R.

648 Industrial Rehabilitation Supplies

Shipments of industrial supplies up to January 31, 1947, amounted to 14,495 gross long tons valued at 10,081,000 dollars. Largest items were public utilities equipment (power generators, pipe for gas and water mains, etc.) and raw materials, chemicals and engineering stores. The following table shows the shipments by value as well as by tonnage.